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Message Text

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15
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 SP-02 L-01 INR-05 RSC-01

PRS-01 H-01 EB-03 /043 W
---------- 060321
R 110920Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0201
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14133

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EAID VS NL
SUBJ: GVN PROTESTS DUTCHAID TO "PRG"

REF: A. THE HAGUE 5396
B. SAIGON 12628

1. MFA DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS NOV 8 TOLD US GVN HAD PROTESTED DUTCH AID TO "PRG" REPORTED REFTEL IN LONDON, IN THE HAGUE THROUGH RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE THERE, AND IN SAIGON. PROTEST CENTERED MAINLY ON PARTICIPATION MINISTER PRONK IN PUBLIC CEREMONY, BUT WAS ALSO DIRECTED AT FACT AID BEING GIVEN TO "PRG" AND AT PRESENCE OF "PRG" REPRESENTATIVE PHAM VAN BA. DIRECTOR SAID GON RESPONSE WAS THAT MINISTER PRONK WAS NOT PRESENT IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AND HIS PRESENCE DID NOT IMPLY GON RECOGNITION OF "PRG". (MFA SPOKESMAN NOV 9 MADE PUBLIC GVN PROTESTS AND GON RESPONSE.)

2. DIRECTOR COMMENTED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD MINISTER PRONK WAS YOUNG AND FIERY LEFTIST WHO COULD MAKE SOME GESTURES TOWARD "PRG" IN HIS SPHERE AS MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, BUT THAT ANY POLITICAL MOVES TOWARD "PRG" WOULD REQUIRE APPROVAL OF MODERATE FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL WHO WAS UNLIKELY TO TAKE SUCH ACTION. WE SAID THIS WAS ALSO OUR UNDERSTANDING. (COMMENT: IT
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IS FORTUNATE THAT MFA HAS SUCH A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF PRONK'S

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POSITION AND CAN DISTINGUISH BETWEEN HIS ACTIONS AND OVER-ALL
GON POLICY.)

3. INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE INDICATES THAT "BENH VIEN HOA-
LAN" (WHICH MEANS, LITERALLY, "DUTCH HOSPITAL") WILL BE
ERECTED IN COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED AREA OF NORTHERN QUANG TRI
PROVINCE, PROBABLY AT DONG HA DISTRICT TOWN. GON MAY BE INTERESTED
TO KNOW THAT, DESPITE TRAPPINGS OF "INDEPENDENCE" WHICH "PRG"
EXHIBITS TO NAIVE FOREIGN VISITORS TO THEIR ZONE, THIS AREA IS,
IN FACT, ADMINISTERED AS PART OF NORTH VIET-NAM'S SOUTHERNMOST
PROVINCE, QUANG BINH.

4. DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIANS MR. L. M. DE BEER AND MRS. N.
SMIT-KROES VISITED SOUTH VIET-NAM SEPT 17-24 (REF B) AND WERE
MUCH IMPRESSED BY THE DEGREE OF POLITICAL AND PRESS FREEDOM
THEY FOUND, AS WELL AS BY THE STRENGTH AND STABILITY OF THE GVN.
WE WONDER IF THERE IS ANY WAY EMBASSY HAGUE COULD BE IN TOUCH
WITH THEM, PERHAPS BY SUPPLYING CURRENT INFORMATION ON VIET-NAM
AS IT IS RECEIVED, TO HELP GET A FACTUAL VIEW OF VIETNAMESE
QUESTIONS AIRED IN DUTCH POLITICAL CIRCLES.
MARTIN

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